

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 11 MAY 2004	
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 107896	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).	
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/000048	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 17 January 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 17 January 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ H01L 27/14, 31/102, 31/0296		
Applicant THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 August 2003	Date of completion of the report 27 April 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer RAJEEV DESHMUKH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2145

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed; unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report*

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-42	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-42	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-42	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

US 4956304 A (COCKRUM et al.) 11 September 1990—Whole document

US 5936268 A (COCKRUM et al.) 10 August 1999—Whole document

Patent Abstracts of Japan, JP 9-232603 A (NEC CORP) 5 September 1997—Abstract; drawing

The claims do not appear to be novel and consequently not to involve an inventive step in light of US 4956304. (Claims 15-38 and 40-42 similarly do not appear to be novel and consequently not to involve an inventive step in light of US 5936268.) US 4956304 solves the same problem (see column 1, lines 13-57) as the present specification in the same way (see column 1, line 61-column 2, line 37) as the present specification—passivation layer is formed, windows are formed in the passivation layer, n-p junctions are formed by subjecting the body to an etching process (column 4, line 58-column 5, line 2), and finally ohmic contacts are formed. Essentially the windows in the passivation layer form a mask for making the n-p junctions. This will inherently lead to the benefits described in the present specification. Therefore the claims do not appear to be novel and consequently not to involve an inventive step in light of US 4956304.

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. Claim 1 is not clear because it does not define any interrelationship between the window in the passivation layer and the n-p junctions. According to the description, the n-p junction regions are delineated by the windows in the passivation layer, but the claim is silent about this feature.